HOW TO USE A BlueCard to earn a merit badge

STEP ONE

A few merit badges have prerequisites, but any registered Scout may work on any of them at any time (after his unit leader has signed the blue card acknowledging that the Scout is registered, has discussed the merit badge with his unit leader and has secured a registered counselor.)
Scouts are free to choose *any* registered counselor (including their parents or other family members).

STEP TWO

The Scout calls the counselor and arranges to meet them. Meetings may happen at the counselor's office, work site, or home. They may begin discussing what the Scout already knows followed with coaching, guidance, and additional meetings. The Guide to Safe Scouting, and the "Sweet 16 of BSA Safety" must be followed. Scouts *must not meet one-on-one with adults*. Meetings must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge. The Scout should bring any required projects or evidence, such as photographs or certification.

If not complete

When complete

when completed

STEP THREE

The counselor records and initials the completed requirements and gives the Scout the whole blue card so he has a record of work completed to date.

When the Scout completes all the requirements with another registered counselor, or the same one he began working with, then he follows the directions at the right.

The **COUNSELORS RECORD** panel is filled out. The counselor removes this part of the blue card and keeps it

The center panel is filled out and and the counselor signs it.

The APPLICANTS RECORD panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.

***Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor**. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout who believes he is being treated unfairly may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.*

Once It Is Earned, It's Earned
Once a registered and approved counselor has passed a Scout on requirements for a merit badge, it cannot be taken away. Unit leadership does not have the authority to retract approval, or take the badge away. If a merit badge counselor were found to be improperly documented, it would be a rare occasion when a Scout would be penalized for the mistake of an adult volunteer.

STEP FOUR

The center panel is given to the advancement chairman who records the achievement and indicate they have done so by initialing and dating the card.

When the badge and certificate are presented the date is noted here.

Scout takes blue card to his troop

The **APPLICANTS RECORD** panel signed by the unit leader and the Scout keeps it with his other advancement records.

The Guide to Advancement is the official source for policies and procedures.

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